THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Shri Gyan Ranjan. Absent. Shri Moolchand Meena. Absent. Shri T.N. Chaturvedi absent.

RE. COMMUNAL DISTURBANCES IN TAMIL NADU

SHRI R. MARGABANDU (Tamil Nadu): Madam Vice-Chairperson, there is communal disturbance in the whole of the southern district of Tamil Nadu. Like what happened in Maharashtra after the statue of Dr. Ambedkar was dishonoured. In Tamil Nadu also the statues of Muthu Ramalinga Thevar, Dr. Ambedkar were sacrileged. some people have dishonoured it, they have damaged it, which led to communal disharmony, violence, riots, looting and everything in all parts of Southern Tamil Nadu for nearly six months. Till this date the situation has not been brought under control. Even the Chief Minister could not visit the riot-affected areas to find out the situation of the grief-stricken people. This is the situation in which Tamil Nadu is. The law and order is not in proper order. So, it is a fit case for the Central Government to invoke article 356 to dismiss the Tamil Nadu Government because they failed to maintain law and order in Tamil Nadu. Madam, the Chief Minister and various Ministers of the Govenrment of Tamil Nadu are duty-bound to go to those places to find out the reasons for the communal disturbances. *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): Madam, the issue of communal disturbance is something which the Chief does not allow. Law and order is a State subject. I would like to know whether the Member can refer to it. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI R. MARGABANDU: I am referring to the communal disturbances in the State. The Minister very well knows that the communal disturbances are prevalent in the State for the last six months and the State Government of Tamil Nadu has not been able to contain that. They have not been able to put an end to these disturbances. As a matter of fact, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had convened a meeting in which leaders of all the communities were present. Even in that meeting, the Government was not able to take any decision to contain these disturbances. What could we conclude from all this? If it is not a law and order problem? The communal disturbance leads to murder, counter murder, houses are set on fire, buses are set on fire. Such incidents are taking place every day as a result of which normal life has been paralysed there. As a matter of fact, there are two communities in the State—Thevar community and Dalit community. The Thevar community people are attacking the Dalit community people. In turn, the Dalit community people are attacking the Thevar community people. This is the situation there. In their anxiety to install the statues of national leaders, the Thevar community installs the statues indiscriminately, wherever they like, without any protection, and the situation slips out of their hands and goes into the hands of anti-social elements, who exploit the situation to their advantage. As a matter of fact, in my own district, the statue of Ambedkar ji was desecrated which resulted in a communal problem at my place. So, unless arrangements are made to provide the necessary protection to the statues of the national leaders, the problem of communal/disharmony cannot be solved. The problem of communal disturbance is prevalent throughout India. So, these statues must be protected. The Central Government and the State Governments should formulate the necessary legislation for the installation of statues at particular places and should also take necessary steps. _ for their protection: If it is not possible to give the necessary protection to them,- then I suggest that all the statues can be placed

in a museum where they can be protected. People can go there to worship the statues of their leaders.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Please conclude.

SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Madam, so far as Tamil nadu is concerned, two eminent leaders are inciting the two communities and they are responsible for communal disharmony in those places. I would like to give one suggestion. If such a person is an elected Member of either Assembly or Parliament, then a disqualification should be attached to prevent such a person from contesting the election. The same criterion should be made applicable in respect of the members of the State Legislature. If any public servant is involved in communal disturbances, then the Central Government and the State Governments should take steps to see to it that man is punished and removed from service. Unless deterrent measures are taken, communal harmony will not be restored and it will become an ever-lasting problem. We have to take necessary steps to see that the Statue of the Father of the Nation and other national leaders are protected.

SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM (Tamil Nadu): Madam, thank you for giving me this opportunity. As far as communal tension in Tamil Nadu is concerned, on behalf of our party, Shri Niraikulathan, hon. Member of Rajya Sabha, put a question before this House on 5.3.97. The question was: "Whether the Government proposes to take any stringent measures for containing the wide-spread communal violence in several parts of the country... *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Mr. Thalavai, are you associating yourself with Mr. Margabandu's Zero Hour Mention or are you speaking on some other topic?

SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: The reply was: "The overall communal situation in the country has considerably improved." There was a major communal incident of violence in Tamil Nadu during the last two months. This was the report which was given by the Home Ministry. As far as the Home Ministry is concerned, there was an Annual Report for 1996-97. In that Report it was mentioned that 282 incidents took place in Tamil Nadu. As far as Bihar is concerned, ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE); Mr. Sundaram, are you associating yourself with the issue raised by Mr. Margabandu?...*(Interrupticts)*... I won't allow this. You cannot go on like this. ...*(Interruptions)*... You please associate yourself with the issue raised by Mr. Margabandu.

SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: Madma, I associate myself with the issue raised by Mr. Margabandu. I am giving the figures, Madam.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE) I don't want the figures. I will allow you only to associate yourself with the issue raised by Mr. Margabandu. That is all.

SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: I am not giving and figure, Madam, As far as communal tension in our State is concerned, today in THE INDIAN EXPRESS there is a news item that yesterday one man was killed and six others were injured in Madurai area of Tamil Nadu and two persons were arrested. There is communal problem in the entire Tamil Nadu. This communal problem is found not only in Tamil Nadu but also everywhere in India. As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, the Chief Minister is not taking any action. As "far as our State is concerned, I request the Chair to direct the Government of India to take necessary action because every day they are killing the poor people. The Government of Tamil Nadu is not taking any action.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Please conclude. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please conclude.

SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM:'

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Nothing of it will go on record now. I call Shri Peter Alphonse. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Sundaram, nothing is going on record like this.

SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM:'

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE (Tamil Nadu): Madam, this is a sorry state of affairs. Nowadays, national leaders of great stature are termed as communal leaders and any disrespect to those leaders is an affront on the face of the nation. In Tamil Nadu and other parts of the country when vested interests want to develop communal tension, the first thing, which they do is to show a mark of disrespect to the national leaders. Something like that had happened in Tamil Nadu. Who is making capital out of this issue?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Are you associating yourself with the issue raised by Mr. Margabandu?

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: I am only associating myself with the issue raised by Mr. Margabandu. I will be very brief. If you go to the root of the problem, the sponsors of these incidents are political parties. All political parties should make a resolve that they will not allow any of their members to go and address any caste or communal conference. This is what our leader, Mr. Moopanar, did. He is the first man to announce that no member of the party should participate in any communal or caste conference. That should be part of the constitution of every political party and they should make a resolve that anybody who takes part in any communal or caste movement would be disqualified from membership. In Tamil Nadu there is a peculiar situation. All retired officials are heading communal organisations. They get pension either from the Central Government or the State Government. These retired officials who are heading the communal organisations get the pension and all other benefits.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Please conclude!

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: I associate myself with the issue raised by Mr. Margabandu. That is all. Thank you.

RE: MURDEROUS ATTACKS ON B.J.P. AND OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES IN KERALA

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL (Madhya Pradesh): Madam, I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India to a serious situation developing in Kerala. In Kerala democratic political functioning is in danger. The Chief Minister himself had admitted yesterday that in the course of last 13 months there had been 893 political clashes. In almost all the political clashes it is found that the party to which the State Home Minister—he is also the Chief Minister —belongs is on the one side. In the course of last 13 months there had been 25 political murders. In all the 25 political murders we found that the party of the Home Minister of Kerala is on the one side. Fifteen victims belonged to my party and associate organisations like R.S.S. and A.B.V.P. This has happened in the course of 13 months. Recently, on 30th June, two important mandal-level party functionaries, secretaries, were killed. When they were sleeping in their house, they had been woken up at midnight saying that they want some water. When they come out to give water they had been hacked to death in the presence of their family members. This has happened on one single night. Two persons, the Mandal President and the Mandal Secretary, Panchayat activist were murdered on a single day in a similar fashion. This is going on. The real culprits are not apprehended. The victims are people belonging not only to my party but all the opposition parties including the Congress, the Muslim

* Not recorded.